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winter, when no insects are to be met with, they come to the farm-houses in order to subsist on the seeds of hay, and other small grains." (Eng. Trans., II, p. 70.)

There is little of value to the ornithologist in these fragmentary notes, but the quaintness of the statements, and the pictures which they call up of birds against the background of those early times possess a certain charm in themselves. Moreover, as Dr. Coues has remarked, some of these descriptions formed the basis of several Linnæan species. Kalm saw the birds for himself and came directly in contact with their surroundings. Therein lies the charm. He left no great work as a monument, but so long as the beautiful *Kalmia* grows on our hillsides his name will be remembered as that of the friend of Linnæus.

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## NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF MADISON COUNTY, NEW YORK, WITH ESPECIAL REFERENCE TO EMBODY'S RECENT LIST.

BY WILLIAM R. MAXON.

THE NOTES here offered are intended to supplement Mr. Embody's 'Birds of Madison County, New York,' which was reviewed briefly in 'The Auk' for January, 1902. Mr. Embody's list, professedly incomplete, embodied mainly the results of investigations in the southeastern portion of the county and properly might have borne a less general title; for, small as Madison County is, it is extremely diverse in its biologic associations and many distinct areas must be studied carefully before anything like a comprehensive understanding, or for that matter more than a tolerably complete list, of the avifauna may be had. The central portion of the county, including several high-lying swamps and adjacent hills near Peterboro, have been worked by Mr. G. S. Miller, Jr., who has kindly furnished me many notes hitherto unpublished. To the southward and westward, however, is a simi-

lar territory of higher elevation, with crests ranging to 2000 feet and more, which so far as I know is quite untouched; and in the northwestern portion a considerable territory, including several low swamps not much above the level of nearby Oneida Lake, likewise awaits investigation. These unexplored areas are bound to yield interesting results. Of this I am convinced by the unexpected returns from several short excursions I have undertaken, in the northeastern portion, over the Stockbridge West Hill which reaches a maximum altitude of 1300 feet. Here, for example, I found a good sized colony of the Cerulean Warbler.

Madison County falls for the most part well within the Transition or Alleghanian zone, but there is an odd intermingling of Canadian and Carolinian forms. The Stockbridge West Hill and its opposite slope at the east form the sides of a broad northerly-trending glacial valley (drained by Oneida Creek), some twelve miles long, which, at a point some seven or eight miles south of the eastern end of Oneida Lake, runs out to the level country marking the bed of the ancient stream, that once swept Central New York from the westward. It is this region with which I am most familiar and to which my own records mainly apply. The following notes are published with especial reference to Mr. Embury's list; and in several instances reference is made to earlier records overlooked in its preparation.

1. *Ardetta exilis*. LEAST BITTERN.—Said to be "rarely seen in Madison County. One male taken May 30, 1897." Several specimens have been taken in the Cowasselon Swamp near Oneida during August.

2. *Nycticorax nycticorax nævius*. BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON.—Not mentioned in the list; may be put down as an occasional transient visitant (See Bagg in Auk, XIV, 227, 1897).

3. *Ægialitis vocifera*. KILLDEER.—Given as a "very common summer resident." In the northeastern parts of the county the bird is rather uncommon, and it seems likely that its distribution is very local throughout.

4. *Colinus virginianus*. BOB-WHITE.—"None recorded since 1893. Formerly a not uncommon summer resident." Still occasional between Oneida and the Lake. A nest was taken at Peterboro in the summer of 1894, the only time the bird has been known to occur in that vicinity. (See also Auk, XIV, 226, 1897, and XVII, 178, 1900.)

5. *Zenaidura macroura*. MOURNING DOVE.—"Rare. One bird seen April 28, 1896." This statement is to be accounted for only upon the

score of oversight. The bird is common all the way from the lowlands of Oneida Lake south along the Stockbridge Valley to Munnsville and to Eaton where I have repeatedly observed small flocks in the buckwheat fields. Out of more than 25 nests found the majority were in apple trees but occasionally in a pine, a white cedar, or upon a fallen log.

6. *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*. BALD EAGLE.—Decidedly less common than formerly, but still to be seen on Oneida Lake. Lewis Point, near South Bay, has been a favorite nesting place for many years.

7. *Dryobates villosus*. HAIRY WOODPECKER.—“Very common resident. Breeds.” It seems extremely doubtful if this species is “very common” in any part of the county; certainly it is tolerably rare in the northern portion.

8. *Sphyrapicus varius*. YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER.—Mr. Embody reckons this a “very common transient visitant.” It is only tolerably common as a migrant, but a few remain to breed.

9. *Melanerpes carolinus*. RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER.—“Of rare and irregular occurrence. One recorded March 8, 1898.” Mr. Miller has recorded also (Auk, IX, 201, 1892) taking a bird at Peterboro, Feb. 16, 1886.

10. *Antrostomus vociferus*. WHIP-POOR-WILL.—Included by Mr. Embody only in his hypothetical list. A common summer resident, however, in the low woods about Oneida Lake, particularly at Lewis Point. Mr. Miller has taken one specimen, a fall migrant, at Peterboro.

11. *Chordeiles virginianus*. NIGHTHAWK.—“Of rare occurrence,” and only two records given by Mr. Embody. The bird is a common summer resident in the vicinity of Oneida and by Oneida Lake; it may be heard almost any early evening. Mr. Miller regards it as “not uncommon at Peterboro.”

12. *Carpodacus purpureus*. PURPLE FINCH.—Given as “very uncommon during the breeding season,” which is far from true for northern Madison County. As a migrant it is tolerably abundant, but only a comparatively small number remain through the summer. I have never discovered a nest.<sup>1</sup>

13. *Loxia curvirostra minor*. AMERICAN CROSSBILL.—Mr. Miller reports this to be found at Peterboro throughout the summer. Mr. Embody's latest record is for May 15, but it is said that the “birds may appear at almost any time during the year.”

14. *Ammodramus savannarum passerinus*. GRASSHOPPER SPARROW.—Mr. Embody is quite correct in regarding this as “not an uncommon summer resident.” In fact where it does occur it is tolerably common; but it was unknown from this district up to July 5, 1895. (See Auk, XIV, 227, 1897, and XVII, 178, 1900). It is nearly as common as

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<sup>1</sup> At Thousand Island Park, Jefferson County, last summer, the Purple Finches were very common and were observed to sing freely during the first two weeks of July, the length of a visit.

the Savannah Sparrow. At Peterboro, however, Mr. Miller took only one specimen during ten years' collecting.

15. *Zonotrichia albicollis*. WHITE-THROATED SPARROW.—Given in the list only as a "common transient visitant." Mr. Miller has found it breeding at two stations near Peterboro; and I have observed it to be common in shrubby half-cleared ground near Oneida Lake.

16. *Junco hyemalis*. JUNCO.—Recorded by Mr. Embury only as a visitant. Mr. Miller observes that the bird breeds "between Peterboro and Morrisville," as he has seen young scarcely able to fly. I have observed individuals on the hills near Oneida well along in May.

17. *Melospiza lincolni*. LINCOLN'S SPARROW.—Mentioned by Mr. Embury only in his hypothetic list. Mr. Miller reports having taken a specimen at Peterboro during spring migration.

18. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*. TOWHEE.—Not mentioned. A single specimen was taken during spring migration near Oneida by Mr. Percy Klock, and Mr. Miller also took one at Peterboro. Mr. Egbert Bagg and the writer found the Towhee resident in low woods near Oneida Lake in Oneida County several years ago (see Auk, XVII, 178, 1900), and there is no doubt that the bird breeds also in similar situations a little farther along the shore within the limits of Madison County.

19. *Progne subis*. PURPLE MARTIN.—"Rarely seen," etc. Breeds at Oneida and seems to be holding its own against the English Sparrows. I took a set of 4 eggs from an electric arc lamp at Oneida, July 12, 1895.

20. *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW.—Said to be "rarely seen," and three records given. According to Mr. Miller it is a "not uncommon summer resident near Peterboro."

21. *Vireo flavifrons*. YELLOW-THROATED VIREO.—"Listed as a not uncommon summer resident." Common in northern portion of the county where I have observed several nests. (See Osprey, New Series, I, 37-39, 1900.)

22. *Vireo solitarius*. BLUE-HEADED VIREO.—Given by Mr. Embury only in the hypothetic list. Mr. Miller states that it is common at Peterboro during migrations and that a few remain throughout the summer.

23. *Mniotilta varia*. BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER.—"Common transient visitant." Mr. Miller calls it a common breeder at Peterboro.

24. *Dendroica rara*. CERULEAN WARBLER.—"Rare summer resident," etc. There are earlier records than Mr. Embury's. See Auk, XVII, 178, 1900, where is recorded the discovery of a colony on the Stockbridge West Hill. I have often visited this colony. As late as July 22 (1902) many of the birds were still in song. Mr. Miller has taken a single specimen at Peterboro.

25. *Dendroica blackburniae*. BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER.—Given only as a "common transient visitant." Mr. Miller states that the Blackburnian is "tolerably common" at Peterboro; and I have found it to be a regular but rather rare summer resident among hemlocks in mixed woods on the Stockbridge East Hills.

26. *Dendroica virens*. BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER.—Recorded as “fairly common during migrations.” It is, however, a not uncommon summer resident among the hemlocks in several localities in the northeastern part of the county. Mr. Miller states that it is common at Peterboro.

27. *Dendroica palmarum*. PALM WARBLER.—Mentioned only in hypothetic list. Mr. Miller calls it a not uncommon migrant at Peterboro.

28. *Geothlypis agilis*. CONNECTICUT WARBLER.—Not listed. A rare fall migrant at Peterboro, according to Mr. Miller.

29. *Geothlypis philadelphia*. MOURNING WARBLER.—Given as “a rather rare transient visitant. Occasionally seen during the summer.” According to Mr. Miller it breeds rather commonly at Peterboro. I find it in high woods on the Stockbridge East Hills.

30. *Icteria virens*. CHAT.—Not listed. Mr. Miller has taken a single specimen at Peterboro.

31. *Wilsonia mitrata*. HOODED WARBLER.—“Rare. Two individuals seen May 29, 1900, one of which was captured, now in the writer’s collection.” The Hooded occurs as a regular (breeding) summer resident in the woods with the Cerulean on the Stockbridge West Hill where I found it first in 1896, subsequently in 1898 and 1900. (See Auk, XVII, 178, 1900.) Two specimens were taken; one, June 24, 1898, which is in my own collection; a second, adult female, June 15, 1900, now in the U. S. National Museum collection (No. 172461). Upon one of my visits in 1900 a partially fledged bird was seen with one parent. On July 22, 1902, an adult bird in song was seen again in the same restricted area where the previous ones were observed. Altitude about 1250 feet.

32. *Wilsonia canadensis*. CANADIAN WARBLER.—Put down as “not uncommon during migrations.” Should be given as a not uncommon summer resident. Mr. Miller calls it common at Peterboro; but I have summer records from only two stations, both not far south of Oneida.

33. *Toxostoma rufum*. BROWN THRASHER.—Mr. Embody records a single specimen. The bird is rather rare in the northern part of the county, being most often seen in the lowlands toward Oneida Lake. Mr. Miller calls it an extremely rare migrant at Peterboro.

34. *Certhia familiaris americana*. BROWN CREEPER.—Mr. Embody’s records indicate that it breeds near Hamilton, and according to Mr. Miller it breeds at Peterboro.

35. *Hylocichla guttata pallasii*. HERMIT THRUSH.—Given only as a common transient visitant, which would be my verdict. Mr. Miller, however, found it breeding commonly at Peterboro.

36. *Hylocichla alicæ*. GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH.—Given only in the hypothetic list. Mr. Miller states that it is not an uncommon migrant at Peterboro.